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## Making the Best of Tough Times

As we move into August, I have to say that I have missed many of the fun activities that we usually enjoy throughout the summer. Many of the sporting events, Arts in the Park, Fun Days, and other activities that are part of our usual summer season did not take place this year. Even my own family reunion was cancelled! That said, the summer of 2020 is evidence of the spirit of innovation and creativity among our community. For example, I recently attended a “drive-through” wedding shower where the young couple stood in a shady parking lot and were greeted by friends from their cars as they drove through. Our wait in the drive-through line was rewarded with refreshments offered by the parents of the bride and groom. It was a fun and creative way to make the best of the difficult times we are experiencing.

Many transactions or communications that we used to do in person have become electronic or curbside over the past months. Ordering food over a phone app is quite common, and meetings over Zoom have replaced face-to-face interactions. Fewer citizens are visiting city offices as they take care of their business remotely.

We recently opened our brand-new, state-of-the-art headquarters fire station at 4848 South Box Elder Street without the fanfare of a public open house. We are extremely pleased with the facility and will be anxious to give tours to the public when the time is right. Directly east of the station our new city hall will begin construction without a public groundbreaking ceremony due to pandemic restrictions.

We are pleased that we have been able to reopen our popular parks, including our swimming pool, even though the number of swimmers allowed at a time are fewer than previous capacity. I have observed during this pandemic that our residents want to be out appreciating nature, soaking up the sunshine, and enjoying activities.

These past few months have been challenging for all of us. The pandemic, an earthquake, and civil unrest have moved all of us from our comfort zones. As your mayor, I am proud of the way Murray residents and businesses have responded to the challenges. While a few have criticized, most of you have been helpful to neighbors, supportive of local business, and have looked for ways to make the best of tough times.



Our senior citizens have been impacted immensely by the pandemic. Many of our seniors rely on each other for social interactions, and the closure of our senior recreation center during this pandemic has had an overwhelming effect on many of them who are feeling lonely during this time of isolation. While our senior center staff continues to explore options for programs and activities that can be safely accomplished, this has been a difficult undertaking. I hope we can all be aware of those seniors in our neighborhoods and reach out to them with helping hands.

There is a Japanese proverb that says, "Fall seven times, stand up eight." Murray has a long history of standing up before, during, and after hard times, and I am certain that the current hard time will be no different. While it may be easy to retreat into our homes and keep to ourselves during these times, I salute those of you who are actively reaching out and providing help and service to your neighbors in need. That's what we've done before, that's what we're doing now, and that's what we'll do in the future.